What would you do if you weren’t afraid? Sure, it might be a slightly cheesy and cliché question, but maybe it is cliché because it is true.

Fear has a way of stopping us in our tracks. It has a way of keeping us in our boxes because that unknown place outside of our comfort zones is just a little too wild, and unpredictable, and scary.

One of the most frequent requests that God or God’s messengers give in Scripture is to fear not. Fear is one of those things that gets in the way on our faith journeys, it is one of those things that keeps us from experiencing the fullness of who God is, how God is moving in the world, and who God is calling us to be.

When God called Moses out of his comfort zone at the burning bush, Moses’ first responses are fear: fear of failure, fear of not being enough, fear of how people will respond, fear of the unknown. Out of fear, Moses begs with God to please send someone else and let Moses keep living his quiet and comfortable life.

God calls Moses beyond his fear, recognizing that these are indeed scary things but that God will be with Moses, and so they are not reasons not to try.

When the Israelites heard from Moses what God was going to do, they too responded with fear. Because as much as they wanted freedom, the risk and uncertainty was frightening and so time and again they struggle.

These are just some of the countless stories from Scripture of people experiencing fear and God calling them beyond that fear.

Fear is a reality of life and something that we all have in common. We all meet and experience fear on a daily bases, whether we are aware of it or not. And that fear we meet impacts our decisions.

Sometimes this is really helpful. A healthy fear of heights, for example, can keep us from accidentally falling off things. But often our fears impact our actions and thoughts in unhealthy ways.

Often our fears cause us to box ourselves in or stagnate, they cause us to respond in brittle and anxious ways with others rather than with love.

(Continued on page 2)
Pastors’ Ponderings

Maybe in those hundreds of times God asks us to fear not in the Bible God isn’t asking us to do the impossible and like completely without fears. Maybe God is asking us to decide what we will do with our fears, to decide if we will let them hold us back or if we will hear the call of God to follow Jesus into that unknown, wild place of God’s love.

So, what would you do if you weren't afraid? It’s a question some of our youth and I have been talking about as we discern together how God might be calling them and calling us to serve others in our community. It’s a question that helps open our hearts to hear how God might be nudging and calling each of us.

Maybe if we weren't afraid we would reach out to that person we haven't talked to in a while. Maybe if we weren't afraid we would tell someone we love them. Maybe if we weren't afraid we would talk about our faith lives with our friends. Maybe if we weren't afraid we would try something new that we might fail at.

What would you do if you weren't afraid?
Pastor Chelsea

Growing in Faith

**Pastor Chelsea's Ordination**
**Friday, June 23, 7:30 p.m.**
Pastor Chelsea will be ordained at Annual Conference in Burlingame, CA, on Friday June 23, 7:30 p.m. We are organizing rides, and hope you can join us! Sign up after worship in the Fellowship Hall, or call the church office (925-447-1950, ext. 100) to learn more about the details.

We will also be celebrating Chelsea's ordination in worship on Sunday June 25.

Don’t Forget!

**DID I SET THE CLOCKS BACK?**

**OR SHOW UP AT 10 A.M. ON JUNE 11?**

Sunday, June 11, 10:00 a.m.
No, you don’t need to set your clocks back, you just get an extra hour of sleep! How sweet is that? What will you do with your extra hour?

Service now starts at 10:00 a.m. starting on Sunday, June 11, an hour later than normal.

Enjoy your extra hour of sleep!
Celebrate Community

Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, June 6, 6:30 p.m.
This month we will be going to Strizzis Italian Restaurant ([www.strizzis.com](http://www.strizzis.com)) located at 2205 First Street. All ladies of Asbury are invited. Please let Nancy Grover know if you plan to attend so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect.

Senior/Retiree Luncheon
Thursday, June 1, 12:00 p.m.
Seniors/Retiree Luncheon—You are invited to the monthly luncheon on Thursday, May 4 at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. This month we are having ham, potatoes, salad, dessert. The cost is $5 per person. Please sign-up after worship or call the church office at 925-447-1950.

Dine N Dawdle Starts!
Thursdays, starting June 22, 6:00 p.m.
It’s summertime again (already!), and that means that Dine and Dawdle is here. Starting Thursday, June 22, come to the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. and enjoy a night off from cooking dinner and doing dishes. The Fellowship Team has something fun for the entire summer on almost all Thursdays.
The cost for D&D is $5/person or $20/family, except the UMW-sponsored evening.
Come enjoy some fellowship, bring a friend, and take the evening off. Let us do the cooking and dishes!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May 26, 2017
Last Sunday during worship as we sang the words, “I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together,” I was overcome by emotion, thoughts and memories. It suddenly was astonishing to me just how much each of you, this church, this sanctuary, this community have meant to me and done for me over the past six years or so. I came here as a stranger ill with cancer, knowing almost no one, not sure I even belonged. But today as my wife, Bonnie and I prepare to leave and start a different chapter of our lives in San Diego near our son, daughter-in-law and grand children, I do so feeling very sad because I’m leaving you behind but also filled with joy for all you’ve given me during this time. Due to your love and grace I now know so much better our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and Our Heavenly Father. While here I have learned to listen for God’s voice and direction and have clearly heard Him speak to me during worship and other times a well. I have come to know the Bible and prayer from sermons delivered by our pastors, Kim, Chelsea and Chuck as well as from the Disciples classes I took with some of you who have become some of my dearest friends, the Men’s Group, the small Advent groups we shared. The small group I led with Larry Wiley and the deep connections that have grown out of there have been truly inspirational. From that group came the move to guide Asbury into becoming a Reconciling Congregation that provided me with the opportunity to get to know some of you more intimately for which I am so thankful. Thank you for the chance to teach Sunday school and participate in Vacation Bible School so that I’ve had the privilege of getting to know some of our wonderful children. I’ll never forget the mission trips and the brotherhood (and sisterhood) that grew from those experiences. There have been so many meaningful and profound experiences for me here at Asbury I am unable to reiterate them all.
Thanks to my experiences and relationships here at Asbury, I leave here a much different and happier person. I will carry Jesus’ words and example as well as my memories and lessons learned from you to our new home in San Diego and look forward to sharing that with the people we will meet and come to know there. With gratitude and thankfulness I leave here with you all in my heart. I love you.
Bill Groth
Partners for Change Needs You

Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Partners for Change will start Session 3 on May 31. We welcome mentors and mentees alike in our anti-poverty movement. If you or someone you care about is interested in dedicating 4-12 hours a month to aid people who have committed to achieving financial stability and changing their lives, you are invited to join us. We also welcome people interested in volunteering in our childcare program.

Contact Shana for more details.

Stay up to date on our progress and how to get involved by liking our Facebook page.

Bundles of Joy

During June, we will be collecting supplies to stock newborn baby baskets. These baskets are given to low-income mothers, clients of Axis Community Health, when they deliver at Stanford Valley Care Hospital. What a wonderful way to welcome a new life into our world! Donate any of the following in the collection boxes in the office or sanctuary:

- Newborn outfits
- Rattles Bottles (3 pack)
- Newborn diapers
- Booties or socks
- Newborn toys
- Baby lotion, powder or ointment
- New stuffed animals
- Gift cards (Target, Babies R Us, etc.)
- Hats
- Bibs
- Wipes
- Pacifiers
- Blankets
- Baby wash

June Special Offering – Africa University

Sunday, June 11, 2017

On Sunday, June 11, we will take a conference special offering on behalf of Africa University. Africa University celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year! Sponsored by the United Methodist Church, the University, located in Zimbabwe, has 2,300 full and part time students. The University offers undergraduate and graduate degrees to students who might be challenged to access a quality education otherwise. We will deliver the proceeds from this special offering at the Opening Worship of the 2017 California-Nevada Annual Conference.

Register Now Available for Fall Mission Trip

Saturday, September 9-16, 2017

We will be returning to Weed, California (near Mount Shasta) to help rebuild from the 2014 fire. The so called “Boles Fire” destroyed half of the town and much of the surrounding area. The California Nevada Conference is sponsoring a long-term recovery effort. We will be helping to build homes with Habitat for Humanity.

We will carpool to the area on Saturday, September 9 and return on Saturday, September 16, 2017. It is roughly a five hour drive. We will be preparing our own meals and staying at the Mount Shasta United Methodist Church. The church has sleeping rooms, a kitchen, gathering areas and showers. The cost of the trip will be $150 to $200. Scholarships are available. For more information contact Steve Elliott or stop by the Serve Others Table after worship.

Join the Serving Others with Love Leadership Team

Two of the members of the committee that coordinates much of Asbury’s missions and outreach are moving away. We could use a couple of new people interested in serving on this leadership team. It is a very rewarding way to live your faith. See Steve Elliott for more information.
Fertile GroundWorks Update

Fertile GroundWorks Board of Directors and Staff express our sincere gratitude to Asbury United Methodist Church for your generous donation of this year’s Special Easter Offering. In all, $5797 were donated!

Starting with the initial Asbury Garden of Grace vision, continuing with the establishment of the Fertile GroundWorks 501(c)(3) nonprofit business, and to the very present, we have been partners in service of the needy in our communities, donating food to Open Heart Kitchen and local food pantry’s. We continue with resolve to not only provide people with food in time of need but also teach people in our communities how to feed themselves. At this time we are helping 11 schools to sustainably operate 13 Food and Science Gardens. Food grown in many of the school gardens is used by student’s families who are in need.

Come out and visit us at the Garden of Grace. We are currently planting summer fruits and vegetables at a breakneck speed. In the meantime, ample harvests of lettuce, kale, onions and garlic are being delivered to the Open Heart Kitchen.

Two new additions to the garden are a blackberry trellis along the eastern fence line and pavers installed by an Eagle Scout project around our accessible planters to the west of the fire pit.
Children’s Ministries

Vacation Bible School
“Superheroes of the Bible”
July 24-28, 2017, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Registration forms for children and volunteers are available online at www.asburylive.org, in the Fellowship Hall following worship service, and in the church office. Registration forms must be turned in no later than July 9. Don’t miss out on the fun. Space is limited so register now!

Wanted: Children’s Moment Speakers for Worship

Children’s moment worship service speakers training for new and current volunteers will be with Keri Gnecco in Room 8 on Sunday, June 11 from 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (a new date & time), following our new 10:00 a.m. service time. Please prayerfully consider inspiring future generations with your light of Christ by becoming a children's moment speaker during worship service. Sign up to attend in the church office during the week or in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday.

Methodist Summer Camp Opportunities for Children & Youth

For grades 3 and up:
Monte Toyon in Aptos, CA (near Santa Cruz): July 9-14
Many Asbury children and youth have attend this camp and have loved it. Former Asburyite Jenna Stark is the Camp Director.
Lodestar: July 16-22
Camp Registration info is here: http://calnevypm.org

Thank you Sunday School Teachers!!!
Thank you so much Sunday School Teachers for shining the light of Christ through you to show each child God loves them just as they are. You are building the foundation upon which we will build Asbury UMC’s future 150 years on. What a wonderful blessing you all are to our community.

In love and faith,
Jackie Bennett
Children’s Ministry Director
Youth Ministries

Youth Happenings for June 2017

- **June 4**: Special Youth Group! 5:30-7pm
- **June 11**: Last Youth Group before Summer! 5:30-7 p.m.
- **June 18**: No Youth Group
- **June 20**: Game and Ice Cream Sundae Night, 7-9:00 p.m.
- **June 25**: Youth Pool Party, 3-7:00 p.m. 1284 Asti Court, Livermore

Youth Pool Party

**June 25, 2017, 3-7:00 p.m.**

Save the date to kick off summer with a youth pool party on June 25! We will have fun, pool games, and BBQ dinner. Our pool party this year will be at Pat Van Lehn's house at 1284 Asti Cour in Livermore from 3-7:00 p.m. Invite your friends for some fun in the sun!

Youth Group Summer Fun

Save the following dates for youth group summer fun!

- **July 7**: 6 Flags Trip
- **July 21-22**: Youth Lock-in, 6:00 p.m.-10:00 a.m.
- **August 27**: Youth Mission Sunday

June Mystery Photo

Every month, we will run a mystery photo, for you to identify. At the end of 2017, whoever has correctly guessed the most photos, will receive a special prize. Here’s this month’s photo. Who do you see? Email your answers to Pastor Kim.

**Anniversaries**

Bob and Kathy Berger  
Dave and Dee Bing  
Dave and Jean Braun  
Rich and Jan Buckley  
Cory and Anne Coll  
Dick and Sharmyn Crawford  
Eric and Kirsten Cummings  
Peter and Susan Danan  
Roger and Jane Everett  
Duane and Delaine Jantzen  
Jim and Jeannie Lobao  
Joe and Maris Medeiros  
Donald and Gabe Meeker  
Hal and Marlys Miller  
Tom and Karen Nelson  
Steve Elliott and Kim Risedorph  
Eric and Sue Ellen Schell  
Steve and Sheila Taber  
Bill and Glenda Warren  
Rich and Laura Whipple  
Steve and Sue Worth

**Birthdays**

Karen Bauman  
Jennifer Bernstein  
Chris Bing  
John Bluck  
Cassie Braun  
Anne-Marie Calderone  
Mikel Campos  
Beverly Cavin  
Shannon David  
Glen Dawes  
Lynnea Dawes  
Steve Elliott  
Nick Evans  
Jane Everett  
Kelly Galicia-Thomas  
Kelsey Gamble  
Joelle Goodman  
Kelly Gully  
Makayla Gully  
Chris Hain  
Elaine Hancock  
Louis Howell  
Karl Item  
Katie Johnson  
Sue King  
Hansa Lakamsani  
Vamsee Lakamsani  
Dwight LeVan  
Zack Lobao  
Lorraine Magee

**Anniversaries**

Janet Malski  
June Martin  
Paula McClendon  
Victoria McPeake  
Marisa Medeiros Hooper  
Cole Meyers  
Karl Meyers  
Maggie Muldoon  
Diana Nathan  
Karen Nelson  
Tom Nelson  
Tom Petty  
Elizabeth Piscotty  
Glenn Pomykal  
Sean Pomykal  
Javon Rahmaan  
Frank Raskauskas  
Sarah Reggiardo  
Matthew Schlientz  
Ron Schwartz  
Annakate Siebers  
Joyce Spence  
Ray Spooner  
Joy Stewart  
Rebecca Stewart  
Molly Torres  
Pat Van Lehn  
John Van Scyoc III  
Jesse Williams  
Jim Wilson  
Lena Wilson  
Leanne Worth
June 2017 Calendar

Please visit the Asbury website calendar for the latest updates: [http://www.asburylive.org/events](http://www.asburylive.org/events)

Weekly Recurring Events

Sundays
- 9:00 a.m. Worship, Sunday School, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. Butterfly Gardens is open
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. Cherub, Rainbow and Youth Choir rehearsals
- 10:30 a.m. Small Group, Room 13 (first and third Sundays only)
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room (first and third Sundays only)
- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Room 10
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Mondays
- 11:00 a.m. Crafting for a Cause, Room 10
- 7:00 p.m. Fertile Groundworks, Conference Room (second and fourth Mondays only)

Tuesdays
- 11:00 a.m. Loose Canons
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room (second and fourth Tuesdays only)
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Small Group, Fireside Room (second and fourth Tuesdays only)
- 7:00 p.m. Al-anon/Alateen, Rooms 13-15
- 7:00 p.m. Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Wednesdays
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 7:30 p.m. Faith Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursdays
- 7:45 a.m. Men’s Group, Fireside Room
- 10:30 a.m. Women of the Spirit, Fireside Room
- 7:00 p.m. Small Group, Room 10
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

Saturdays
- 8:00 a.m. Lawn Crew
- 9:00 a.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

Other Events

June 1, 2017 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, FH

June 4, 2017 (Sunday)
- 9:00 a.m. All Music Sunday, Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday Brunch, Fellowship Hall

June 6, 2017 (Tuesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Strizzi’s Italian Restaurant

June 11, 2017 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10
- 10:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room

June 16, 2017 (Friday)
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

June 18, 2017 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room

June 23, 2017 (Friday)
- 7:00 p.m. Pastor Chelsea’s Confirmation, Hyatt Regency, Burlingame

June 25, 2017 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room
Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Time Dated Material—Deliver Promptly

Address Service Requested

Asbury UMC Staff
Pastors
  Chelsea Constant
  Kim Risedorph
Children's Ministry Director
  Jackie Bennett
Youth Director
  Chelsea Constant
Secretary
  Terri Gamble
Facilities Use Manager
  Peter Robinson
Music Director
  G. Allen Schell
Choir Coordinator
  Jean Braun
Nursery Coordinator
  Pam Tegge
Lay Leader
  Martie Muldoon

Livermore Community Blood Drive
Friday, June 16, 1:00-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Every day, bay area hospitals need over 300 units of blood. If you’re 17 or older and in good health (or 16 with parental consent) help save a life of someone who needs more time with their family by giving blood! Go to redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: ASBURY925.
Call Tom Petty at home for more information. Thank you for helping to save a life by giving blood!

www.AsburyLive.org

Church office hours are:
Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Closed for lunch.

The deadline for the next Asbury Articles is Friday, June 23, 2017